

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 STR-08

INT-08 SCEM-02 DRC-01 /207 W
----- 125774

R 021931Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3786

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 7211

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENGRG, OGEN, PA, AR, BR

SUBJECT: YACYRETA-APIPE AND CORPUS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS,
THE ARGENTINE POINT OF VIEW

REF: A. ASUNCION 3636, B. BA A-250, C. BA A-461 18 SEP 72,
D. BA 7161

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT ARGENTINE/PARAGUAYAN AGREEMENT ON
YACYRETA-APIPE HYDROELECTIC PROJECT ON THE PARANA RIVER WILL BE
SIGNED PRIOR TO OCT 12TH.

2. EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT CALL FOR BIDS ON DESIGN STATE WILL
BE MADE SHORTLY THEREAFTER WITH CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN POSSIBLY
IN 1975. TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY
US\$1,200,000,000, AND IT WILL HAVE AN ENERGY PRODUCTION CAPACITY
OF APPROXIMATELY 2,100 MW. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE DETAILED TRADE
OPPORTUNITY AS SOON AS CALL FOR BIDS MADE.

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3. COMMENT. ARGENTINE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM EMBOFFS HAVE SPOKEN SEEM PLEASED WITH PROGRESS ON THE AGREEMENT, AND WITH THE ACCOMPANYING DEADLINE FOR TENDERS FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE CORPUS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT UP THE PARANA FROM YACYRETA-APIPE (SEE BUENOS AIRES 6902).

4. GOA OFFICIALS AT THE NATIONAL (ARGENTINE) CUENCA DEL PLATA COMMISSION HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THEIR OWN PREFESIBILITY WORK ON CORPUS INDICATES THAT THE BRAZILIANS AND PARAGUAYANS WILL HAVE TO SACRIFICE SOME OF THE HEAD AND RESULTING ELECTRIC ENERGY CAPACITY OF ITAIPU IF CORPUS IS TO BE FEASIBLE. IT IS THEIR HOPE THAT THEY CAN PERSUADE THE PARAGUAYANS AND BRAZILIANS TO MAKE THIS SACRIFICE ON THE BASIS THAT THE COMBINED ENERGY CAPACITY OF ITAIPU AND CORPUS WOULD BE SUCH THAT WHEN SHARED IT WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER AVAILABILITIES OF ENERGY FOR ALL AT A MUCH REDUCED COST. THE ARGENTINE'S STUDIES TELL THEM THAT THE COMBINED COST OF CORPUS AND A MODIFIED ITAIPU PROJECT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT MORE BUT WOULD YIELD ABOUT 60 PERCENT MORE ENERGY THAN THE LATTER PROJECT ALONE, AS IT NOW IS PLANNED. THESE FACTS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE DISPUTED BY ANY OF THE PARTIES.

5. THE ARGENTINES MAINTAIN THAT CORPUS WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON YACYRETA-APIPE. HOWEVER, THEY ADMIT THAT, AT A MINIMUM, OUTPUT OF THE PARAGUAYAN HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY ON THE ACARAY RIVER, A TRIBUTARY OF THE PARANA, WOULD BE REDUCED BY THE CORPUS PROJECT; BUT GOA OFFICIALS PERCEIVE NO PROBLEM IN PERSUADING THE PARAGUAYANS THAT THE INCREMENTAL OUTPUT TO BE OBTAINED BY CORPUS IS WORTH THE REDUCTION IN EFFICIENCY OF THE ACARAY FACILITY.

6. THE GOA STRATEGY APPEARS TO BE TO PUSH THE CORPUS PROJECT ALONG AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE DESIGN PLANS FOR ITAIPU ARE FINALIZED AND THE POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING CORPUS COMPROMISED. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEY HOPE TO USE THE PARAGUAYAN INTEREST IN CORPUS AS LEVERAGE TO OBTAIN THE MODIFICATION OF DESIGN FOR ITAIPU, WHETHER THIS IS A REALISTIC PROSPECT OR NOT.

7. FOR STATE, ASUNCION AND BRASILIA ONLY: AMEND TEXT TO LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 4 OF BUENOS AIRES 7161 (REF D) TO READ:
QUOTE THE ARGENTINE'S STUDIES TELL THEM THAT THE COMBINED COST OF CORPUS AND A MODIFIED ITAIPU PROJECT WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 30
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PERCENT MORE BUT WOULD YIELD ABOUT 60 PERCENT MORE ENERGY THAN THE LATTER PROJECT ALONE, AS IT IS NOW PLANNED. UNQUOTE
LODGE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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